Write a Ringmaster’s Welcome Speech

USE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH Ringmaster Welcome BRAINSTORMING PACKET

Overview  Create Ringmaster’s Welcome speech using circus language and effective presentation techniques.

Why?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>Brainstorm pg. 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>By the end of this activity, child will</td>
<td>Ontent and by</td>
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- Write/dictate a short Welcome speech
  - Use age appropriate grammar and sentence structure
  - Content and word choice are appropriate in the style of the circus

- Perform and record speech
  - Articulation
  - Emotional content and delivery
  - Speech pacing, sound qualities and rhythm

- Make speech that accomplishes the goals of . . .
  - Inform and excite the audience about the performance
  - Set emotional tone for anticipation and excitement for audience
    - Accentuate positive aspects of each performer

What?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Get Ready</th>
<th>Brainstorm pg. 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Gather examples of Ringmaster’s speech on the web</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Make outline of topics to be included in speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Need device to record the child’s speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Make PROJECT PLAN - Step 1, Step 2, Step 3, Record! Reflections</td>
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TIME ESTIMATE

- Min. 2 – 3 hrs.
- (speech itself is less than 2 – 3 min.)

MATERIALS

- Computer with internet access
- Recording device: video, audio
- Costume materials? Props? Megaphone
- Stage? Lighting?
My Multiple Intelligences engaged . . . Brainstorm pg. 3

- **Linguistic** – word choice in written and performed speech
- **Interpersonal** – emotional connection with audience
- **Kinesthetic** – gestures and posture during speech
- **Musical** – speech sounds, rhythm and pacing
- **Visual-Spatial** – costume appropriate to circus ringmaster (hat, gloves, coat, scarf), props (megaphone, riding crop)
- **Intrapersonal** – performance anxiety management, self-monitoring & correction & Final Reflections

### Preparation

Research and view a few examples of ringmasters’ speeches and talk about their purpose (how do you feel when you listen/look at them? What aspects of the speeches make you feel this way? What techniques do the different ringmasters have in common?). Use a Mindmap (see resources) to make notes of essential elements: key words, phrases, gestures, costume, props and content (beginning, middle & end).

### Project Plan

Below are the steps that you will follow to investigate, create and record the ringmaster’s welcome speech. Younger children may only do the oral presentation and not the written speech.

**Get Ready!** Review the Brainstorming Packet for Topic #2.

**Step 1. Write your speech in 3 paragraphs.** Put the Mindmap notes of your welcome speech research on a wall in front of you when you work on your speech. The written speech will be organized in three paragraphs:

1. Welcome everyone. Greet the audience with enthusiasm!
2. Name the main performers and the acts that are in the show.
3. Thank the audience for their presence, share a few wishes/hopes for them during the show and introduce the first performer.

**Tip:** you can use the nicknames and performances you used on your circus poster.

**Step 2. Create oral presentation that is emotionally engaging.** In addition to word choice, a presentation includes voice quality, eye contact, timing, costume and gestures. Posting your written speech on the wall while standing to practice helps in both writing and performing. A mirror helps to guide eye contact and gesture. Practice saying your words aloud to help you emotionally connect with the audience and the organization of your words.
Step 3. Practice your speech before final recording!

Reflect: Record your reflections on page 6 of your Brainstorming Packet.

Tips: You can watch speeches you liked one more time to get inspiration from your favorite ringmaster(s). Before you record yourself, think about your breathing. Reading aloud and public speaking can be stressful sometimes. Do a few breathing exercises before you start to relax your mind and body. (see “tummy breathing” and “elephant breathing” in the detailed “How to” at home).

Fun & Thrills! Brainstorm pg. 4.

How can you make your speech for your audience? Music? Props? Costuming? Fun circus words and phrases?

FINAL Reflections Brainstorm pg. 6

The parent should not provide an evaluation or grade of the child’s performance but instead the child can be queried on the process of writing / recording the Welcome Speech performance:

- What did you do?
- What stands out for you about this activity?
- What surprises you?
- What would you do differently, if you were to do it again?
- What would you like to do next?

Resources

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJB_KrFcdKc - circus video
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAT8gCeTF5g - 5 tips for ringmaster
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qes3WzNTMiI - Jerry Siggins ringmaster example
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCQM6fFGPE - Watch the ringmaster’s speech from Dumbo.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGvukGQo - Be a ringmaster (Circus Arts Conservatory)
Tip: Community Connections  Is there anyone in the family, neighborhood or community your child can talk with about circus?

Class Equivalents / Main Skills

- English (grammar, sentence structure, coherence)
- Speech (public speaking, oral communication, rhetorical devices)
- Social Studies (logical communication, emotional expression)
- Use descriptive details to tell about a topic (CCSSSL4)

Mind Mapping Ring Master’s Welcome Speech

Your first Mindmap lists key elements of a speech that you discover in your research and want to be sure as part of your own speech. A second Mindmap can then include your own actual content and information about your circus acts. Add notes for oral presentation including gestures, costumes, props, pacing, etc.

Tips: You can watch speeches you liked one more time to get inspiration from your favorite ringmaster(s). Before you record yourself, think about your breathing. Reading aloud and public speaking can be stressful sometimes. Do a few breathing exercises before you start to relax your mind and body.

Follow up and Extensions: Time to act! If you are fond of visual arts, drama, acting... it is your chance to make a video recording of your speech. Here are two options:
1. Think about the best way to bring your speech to life: what should the ringmaster wear? Do you want to record inside or outside? What props should the ringmaster have? Should you use music? If so, what kind?
2. You can do activities 3 and 4 before you imagine the setting for the ringmaster’s speech. In activity 3, you will learn how to make a vision board to bring your ideas to life. In activity 4, you will learn about face painting that could help you create a face painting for the ringmaster before you record your video.
Reflections:
Now that your speech is done, think about how it sounds to an audience. Voice quality, pacing, intonations and other element that help to bring your speech to life. How does the audience hearing it feel?

Tips for Giving a Speech.

**Tummy Breathing**

Lie on the floor and place a small stuffed animal on your stomach. Breathe in deeply though your nose and feel the stuffed animal rise, and then feel it lower as you slowly exhale through your mouth. Rock the stuffed animal to sleep using the rise and fall of your stomach.

**Elephant Breathing**

Stand with your feet wide apart and your arms dangling in front of your body like an elephant’s trunk. As you breathe in deeply through your nose, raise your arms up high above your head. Then slowly swing your arms down again as you breathe out through your mouth.
EXAMPLES/MODELS